GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2726
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2007
SETTING UP OF BIRAC
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Bio-technology Industrial Research Assistance Centre (BIRAC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to extend the Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the likely benefits therefrom;

(e) whether any agreement / draft agreement has been prepared by the public sector or private sector industries in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a)&(b) Yes Sir, the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology is proposing establishment of a Biotechnology Industry Research & Development Assistance Council (BIRAC) which would act as a strong interface agency to facilitate linkages between public sector and private sector, to achieve the goal of promoting innovation. BIRAC would also help in promoting industrial growth through technology sourcing/licensing, technology management, intellectual property management, technology forecasting, early stage funding, cluster building & venture funding etc.

(c)&(d) No Sir, the existing scheme on Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) is not being expanded for the purpose of BIRAC. However, BIRAC would facilitate idea generation meeting's and monitoring of SBIRI proposals.

(e)&(f) Currently, a feasibility report for the setting up of BIRAC has been prepared which is under discussion with concerned experts and stakeholders. No agreement has been prepared.